

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY AF:KHSMITH:WLK

APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE

S/S-MR.SEBASTIAN

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O 150132Z FEB 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 033633

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG, USUN

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 02630 ACTION SECSTATE 14 FEB 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T LONDON 2630

NODIS

DEPARTMENT FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SCHAUFLE; ALSO PASS
CAPETOWN AND USUN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH

SUBJ: UK AND SOUTH AFRICAN INITIATIVE

1. TONY DUFF TOLD ME FEBRUARY 14 THAT HMG IS NOT NOW
PREPARED TO TAKE UP THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUGGESTION FOR
TRILATERAL TALKS ON RHODESIA. HE SAID MINISTERS

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HERE ARE EVEN MORE CAUTIOUS THAN FCO OFFICIALS ABOUT
THE LATEST APPROACH FROM PRETORIA. THE BRITISH
ARE LEERY ABOUT WHAT THEY MIGHT BE DRAGGED INTO AND
CONCERNED THAT EVEN EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH THE SOUTH
AFRICANS MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED BY THE NATIONALISTS. THE
BRITISH ARE THEREFORE NOT PREPARED TO COME TO WASHINGTON
THIS WEEK.

2. DUFF PROPOSED THAT WE GO AHEAD WITH BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21 BY WHICH TIME HE EXPECTS HE WOULD HAVE INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS. HE POINTED OUT THAT DECISIONS HERE HAVE ALSO BEEN COMPLICATED BY CROSLAND'S SUDDEN AND APPARENTLY SERIOUS ILLNESS, AND BY TED ROWLANDS ABSENCE IN LATIN AMERICA.

3. DUFF SAID AMBASSADOR SCOTT WOULD SHORTLY BE INSTRUCTED TO SEE FOURIE AND TELL HIM THAT WHILE THE SOUTH AFRICAN INITIATIVE IS "INTERESTING," THE BRITISH ARE NOT ABLE TO RESPOND FOR THE TIME BEING. SCOTT WILL ALSO TELL FOURIE THAT THE NEWS LEAKS FROM CAPETOWN ARE UNHELPFUL AND MAKE A POSITIVE BRITISH RESPONSE MORE DIFFICULT.

4. DUFF AGREED THAT WE SHOULD FIRST PIN DOWN EXACTLY WHAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN EXPECT TO ACHIEVE IN A TRILATERAL MEETING. HE ALSO AGREES THAT THE HASTE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN APPROACH AND THE INTENTIONAL LEAKS TO THE PRESS INDICATE THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE SEEKING AN EARLY DEFINITION OF RELATIONS WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON. HE DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF US/UK MEETING WITH BOTHA WHEN BRITISH IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK BUT WOULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT YET.

5. I SUGGESTED AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN ALSO BE INSTRUCTED TO POINT OUT TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT LEAKS TO THE PRESS WILL NOT HELP THEIR PROPOSALS TO GET OFF THE GROUND.

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6. BRITISH WILL WISH TO DISCUSS NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA WITH US NEXT WEEK. I TOLD THEM WE HAD NO OBJECTION.

ARMSTRONG.
UNQUOTE VANCE.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INDEPENDENCE, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, NATIONALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE033633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KHSMITH:WLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770001-0536
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770240/aaaabjer.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b1374bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3317844
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK AND SOUTH AFRICAN INITIATIVE
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, UK, RH, (DUFF, ANTHONY)
To: CAPE TOWN USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1374bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009